

# 2002 NHDS DATA FILE DOCUMENTATION

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## APPENDIX A

### DEFINITION OF TERMS

#### Terms relating to hospitals and hospitalization

**Hospitals:** Short stay hospitals or hospitals whose specialty is general (medical or surgical), or children's general. Hospitals must have 6 beds or more staffed for patients use. Federal hospitals and hospital units of institutions are not included.

**Type of ownership of hospital:** The type of organization that controls and operates the hospital. Hospitals are grouped as follows:

**Not for Profit:** Hospitals operated by a church or another not for profit organization.

**Government:** Hospitals operated by State and local government.

**Proprietary:** Hospitals operated by individuals, partnerships, or corporations for profit.

**Patient:** A person who is formally admitted to the inpatient service of a short-stay hospital for observation, care, diagnosis, or treatment, or by birth.

**Discharge:** The formal release of a patient by a hospital; that is, the termination of a period of hospitalization by death or by disposition to place of residence, nursing home, or another hospital. The terms "discharges" and "patients discharged" are used synonymously.

**Discharge rate:** The ratio of the number of hospital discharges during the year to the number of persons in the civilian population on July 1 of that year.

**Days of care:** The total number of patient days accumulated at time of discharge by patients discharged from short stay hospitals during a year. A stay of less than 1 day (patient admission and discharge on the same day) is counted as 1 day in the summation of total days of care. For patients admitted and discharged on different days, the number of days of care is computed by counting all days from (and including) the date of admission to (but not including) the date of discharge.

**Rate of days of care:** The ratio of the number of patient days accumulated at time of discharge to the number of persons in the civilian population on July 1 of that year.

**Average length of stay:** The total number of days of care accumulated at time of discharge by patients discharged during the year, divided by the number of patients discharged.

#### Terms relating to diagnoses and procedures

**Discharge diagnoses:** One or more diseases or injuries (or some factor that influences health status and contact with health services that is not itself a current illness or injury) listed by the attending physician on the medical record of a patient. In the NHDS, discharge (or final) diagnoses listed on the face sheet (summary sheet) of the medical record are transcribed in the order listed. Each sample discharge is assigned a maximum of seven five-digit codes according to ICD-9-CM (4).

**Principal diagnosis:** The condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission of the patient to the hospital for care.

**First-listed diagnosis:** The coded diagnosis identified as the principal diagnosis or listed first on the face sheet of the medical record if the principal diagnosis cannot be identified. The number of first-listed diagnoses is equivalent to the number of discharges.

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**Procedure:** One or more surgical or nonsurgical operations, procedures, or special treatments listed by the physician on the medical record. In the NHDS, all terms listed on the face sheet (summary sheet) of the medical record under the caption "operation," "operative procedures," "operations and/or special treatment," and the like are transcribed in the order listed. A maximum of four procedures are coded.

**Rate of procedures:** The ratio of the number of all-listed procedures during a year to the number of persons in the civilian population on July 1 of that year determines the rate of procedures.

### Demographic terms

**Age:** Refers to the age of the patient on the birthday prior to admission to the hospital inpatient service.

**Population:** Civilian population is the resident population excluding members of the Armed Forces.

**Geographic regions:** Hospitals are classified by location in one of the four geographic regions of the United States corresponding to those used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census:

U.S. CENSUS REGIONS			
NORTHEAST	MIDWEST	SOUTH	WEST
Maine	Michigan	Delaware	Montana
New Hampshire	Ohio	Maryland	Idaho
Vermont	Illinois	District of Columbia	Wyoming
Massachusetts	Indiana	Virginia	Colorado
Connecticut	Wisconsin	West Virginia	New Mexico
Rhode Island	Minnesota	North Carolina	Arizona
New York	Iowa	South Carolina	Utah
New Jersey	Missouri	Georgia	Nevada
Pennsylvania	North Dakota	Florida	Washington
	South Dakota	Kentucky	Oregon
	Nebraska	Tennessee	California
	Kansas	Alabama	Hawaii
		Mississippi	Alaska
		Arkansas	
		Louisiana	
		Oklahoma	
		Texas	